

I-5 – South 317th Street HOV Direct Access Project Update

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Construction Update

With southbound I-5 traffic now using the temporary roadway in the median, crews are now **breaking up the southbound I-5 pavement** using a 12,000-pound breaker (photos at http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/I5_S317th_DirectAccess/photos). Workers have also started **clearing the slopes** next to the southbound I-5 lanes as they prepare to widen the roadway, and they have also begun **excavation for another bridge support** at S. 317th Street. The bridge will connect to Sound Transit's new Federal Way Transit Center, which is currently under construction to the west of the freeway.

Work continues on the **retaining wall** just south of the S. 317th Street bridge support on the west side of the freeway. Other continuing work includes **drainage** system installation on the northbound I-5 shoulder and **barrier** placement on the southbound exit to S. 320th Street. Crews finished installing temporary **lights** under and above the S. 320th bridge.

I-5 Traffic Revision and Lane and Ramp Closures

We're about a week and a half into the approximately seven-month traffic revision on southbound I-5 (the temporary roadway between Military Road and S. 320th Street). Commuters appear to have adjusted quickly. If you have any comments about the temporary roadway, please e-mail JohnsoL@wsdot.wa.gov.

No daytime closures are anticipated this week. However, each weeknight from 6 p.m. to 5 a.m. the two right lanes of northbound I-5 will be closed south of S. 320th Street.

On Wednesday night, Oct. 27, the southbound exit to S. 320th Street will close at 9 p.m. Traffic will be detoured just down the road to exit 142A, onto northbound I-5, and drivers will be able to exit to S. 320th Street from there. This closure is for one night only so crews can stripe and place signs for the southbound exit ramp to S. 320th. The ramp will reopen by 5 a.m. Thursday morning.

Driving Through The Work Zone

It's hard to imagine what the temporary roadway is like until you've actually driven it. We have a new photo of it on our Web site (http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/I5_S317th_DirectAccess/photos.htm). If you view the photo, you'll notice that the stripes between the lanes are solid instead of broken white

lines. Drivers should always avoid changing lanes while driving through a work zone, but in this case, **it is ILLEGAL to change lanes in the temporary roadway**. Fines double in work zones, so the State Patrol can issue a **\$202 fine** for this traffic infraction.

Drivers should watch their **speed** in the work zone as well. Driving just 10 mph over the speed limit (70 mph instead of 60 mph) can cost you **\$182!**

You may notice work zone signs with our “Give ‘Em A Brake” slogan, to promote the protection of workers out on the job. But you can also give yourself a break by driving carefully in the work zone. Hundreds of drivers and passengers are injured each year in accidents in work zones. By knowing the causes and common types of work zone traffic accidents you can avoid becoming a victim.

The top two reasons for work zone crashes are speeding and inattentive driving. Observe the speed limit (60 mph) and don't do anything except drive while you're in the work zone. Don't use your cell phone, don't eat or drink, don't change CD's or radio stations. It's worth your safety to put off these activities until after you've passed through the work zone.

One of the top collision types in work zones is rear-end collision. Don't tailgate! Leave plenty of room between you and the vehicle in front of you. Remember that it takes approximately 200 feet for you to stop your car when you're traveling at 60 mph.

To read more facts and tips on driving through a work zone, please visit our “Give ‘Em A Brake” Web site at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/brake>.

Highway Advisory Radio Updates

If you drive through the project area regularly, remember to switch your radio (but not while you're driving through the work zone!) to **AM 1520**. You can hear new project updates and facts each week. Let us know what you think of our radio messages by e-mailing Laura Johnson at JohnsoL@wsdot.wa.gov.
